

11 December 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Release of Intelligence to Foreign Governments

PROBLEM:

To provide authorization and control for the release of national intelligence to foreign governments.

DISCUSSION:

1. There is no specific provision in law or in the NSC directives which clearly authorizes the DCI to release national intelligence to foreign governments. Nevertheless national intelligence is at present released to foreign governments in certain instances either by direction of the DCI or by agreement among the IAC agencies (TAB A). This has been done under an interpretation of Section 102(d) (3) and (5) of the National Security Act of 1947 and NSCIDs 1, 3, and 11 which together were considered to provide the DCI, by implication, with the necessary authority. It is now evident, however, that the volume of intelligence that can and should be released to certain foreign governments has become so considerable and the potential danger of ill-advised release so magnified that the National Security Council should grant some specific authorization and clearly fix the responsibility for the dissemination of national intelligence to foreign governments.

RECOMMENDATION:

2. That the attached draft letter to the NSC (TAB B) be placed before the IAC for consideration and approval before transmittal to the NSC.

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Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination